



**Lower costs,  
faster ship-  
ments with  
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# PLAINS GUARDIAN

VOLUME 61 No. 1      *Serving the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, Kansas Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security and Civil Air Patrol*      JANUARY 2017

## 35th Division deploying to Persian Gulf

### Public Affairs Office

The 35th Infantry Division Headquarters, located in Leavenworth, Kansas, has received notification for a deployment to the Persian Gulf and Levant regions. Approximately 500 Soldiers from both the Kansas and Missouri National Guard will be activated in support of Operation Spartan Shield beginning in mid-2017 to enhance ongoing theatre security operations.

“Our nation has, once again, called upon the Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division to take on a demanding task to support the national security goals of the United States,” said Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden, commander, 35th Infantry Division. “As Americans, we relish the challenge and, through superb training, we will thrive.”

Elements of the 35th Infantry Division deployed in 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2014 to support peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. This is the first time since 1944 the entire division headquarters has been activated.

“This is a calling that requires intensive preparation, specialized education, and continuous learning and development of skills,” said Braden. “It will require the support of our families, our communities and our employers to ensure our mission’s success.”

The 35th Infantry Division is one of 18 divisions in the Army and one of eight divisions in the Army National Guard.

## Kansas Guard responds to emergency in Neodesha

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

An explosion at a chemical manufacturing plant in Neodesha, Kansas, left area residents scrambling to figure out their Thanksgiving Day plans.

The explosion occurred at approximately 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016. Runoff from firefighting operations entered the Fall River at Neodesha and subsequently flowed downstream into the Verdigris River, resulting in contamination of the water supply for Neodesha, Coffeyville, Independence and several rural communities that purchased their water through those cities.

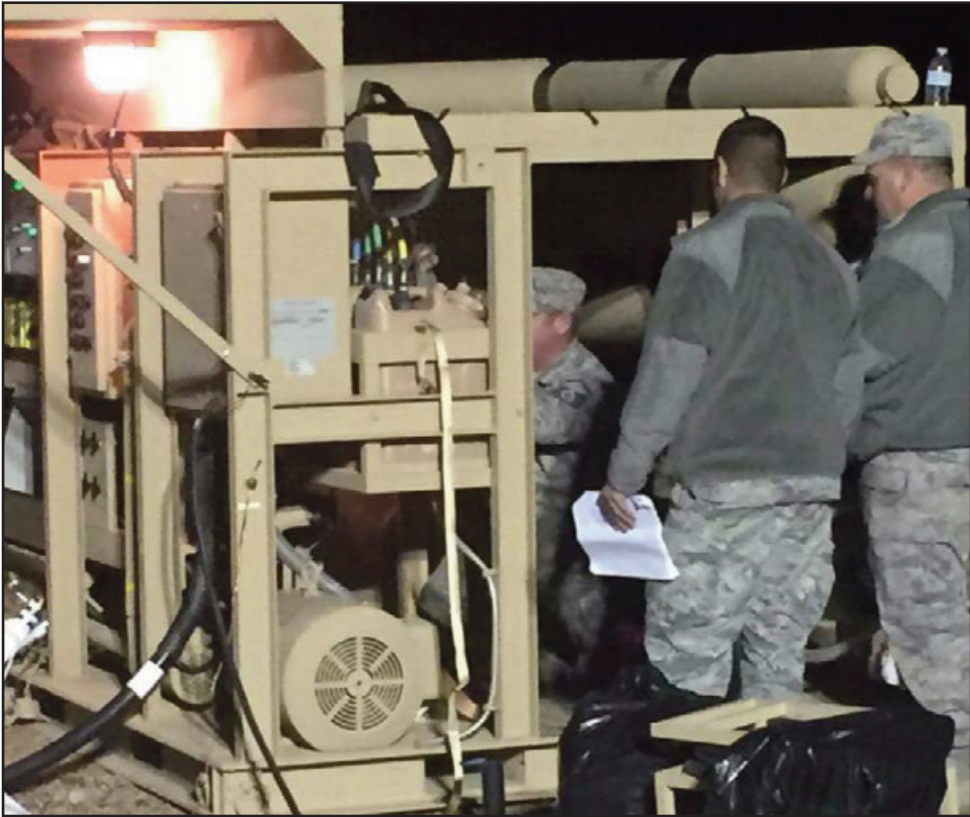
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment initially issued a do not drink order for the Neodesha and Rural Water Districts 3, 4, 6, and 8 because of possible contamination. Water intakes downstream along the Fall River and Verdigris River were closed, cutting off potable water for area residents.

Gov. Sam Brownback issued a State of Disaster Emergency for Montgomery and Wilson Counties.

“We are thankful there was no loss of life and are grateful to all first responders, community volunteers, and local officials,” said Brownback. “The state will continue to offer full support and resources.”

“Our first priority is the health and safety of all those affected by this explosion,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “We stand alongside the governor, local officials and volunteers, offering immediate, on-the-ground support.”

KDEM activated the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka 24/7 to coordinate response efforts and locate potable



**Airmen with the 190th Air Refueling Wing set up a reverse osmosis water purification system to augment water supplies for communities affected by a Nov. 22 explosion at a chemical plant in Neodesha that temporarily contaminated the Fall and Verdigris Rivers, forcing water suppliers to cut off intake from those rivers. (Photo provided)**

water for area residents. KDEM partnered with Walmart, Sam’s Club, the American Red Cross, United Way, Harvesters, United Methodist Committee on Relief and other private companies and organizations to coordinate donated water supplies.

As an added measure, the Kansas National Guard was tasked to deploy two reverse osmosis water purification systems from the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Topeka to Elk City Lake west of Neodesha. Each system was capable of purifying 1,500 gallons of water per hour and temporarily storing it on-site. Once purified

and approved for consumption, the water was transported via tanker trucks to distribution points.

“They were very professional and did an outstanding job,” said Neodesha city manager Ed Truelove.

KDHE and the Environmental Protection Agency took regular water samples from the Fall and Verdigris Rivers to monitor water for chemical and bacterial contamination. Water outflow from several reservoirs upstream of Neodesha were increased in an effort to dilute contaminants and flush them from the water systems.

## 184th Jayhawks celebrate 75 years of service

By Master Sgt. Matt McCoy  
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs  
Friends, coworkers, family members and

veterans congregated in Hangar 41 at McConnell Air Force Base Sept. 10 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 184th

Intelligence Wing.

Hugs, handshakes, laughter and stories of the “good ol’ days” from current and former members of the wing filled the atmosphere of the building that served as the unit’s main hangar since 1954.



**Senior Master Sgt. Joel Unger (left), 184th Intelligence Wing, and his father, retired Master Sgt. John Unger, a former unit member, look at photos from the past 75 years during the 75th anniversary celebration Sept. 10. Hundreds of photos and memorabilia were on display. (Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th IW Public Affairs)**

**“You hear it all the time  
that the Guard’s a family...  
they’re acting like they’re  
at a family reunion.”  
Col. David Weishaar  
commander, 184th IW**

“That’s really what this was all about—bringing these guys back together,” said Col. David Weishaar, commander, 184th IW. “You hear it all the time that the Guard’s a family...they’re acting like they’re at a family reunion.”

The celebration opened with a formal presentation given by current commanders. As part of the presentation, the wing invited Retired Navy Capt. Thomas Flanary, son of Lt. Paul N. Flanary, the unit’s first commander, to speak to the audience.

(Continued on Page 14)

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130th Field Artillery Brigade change of command

“The right man for the right job at the right time.”

By 1st Sgt. Brent A. Anders  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Replica Colonial cannons fired, followed by modern artillery, in recognition and celebration of the Kansas National Guard’s 130th Field Artillery Brigade change of command ceremony held Sept. 18 in Frank Anneberg Park, Manhattan, Kansas.

The ceremony was witnessed by Guardsmen, family, friends and distinguished visitors that included

“Whether you are a full bird colonel or a private, the great thing about the military is that you are always learning and trying to push yourself further.”  
Col. Thomas Burke

Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard-Land component; and Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Whitley, senior enlisted advisor of Kansas Army National Guard-Land component.

“I think regardless of whether you are a full bird colonel or a private, the great thing about the military is that you are always learning and trying to push yourself



Cannons fire during a change of command ceremony for the 130th Field Artillery Brigade held at Frank Anneberg Park in Manhattan, Kansas, Sept. 18. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



Col. Thomas Burke, (right) accepts the colors of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade as its incoming commander during a change of command ceremony at Frank Anneberg Park in Manhattan, Kansas, Sept. 18. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

further and trying to help our organizations grow,” said Col. Thomas Burke, incoming commander of the 130th FA. “Anytime a Soldier has an opportunity to go outside their comfort level and serve in a greater capacity it is an opportunity to learn.”  
Burke, who prior to this assignment was commander of 69th Troop Command, said in taking command of the 130th FA he was assuming control of a well-established unit. “Colonel Rueger has done a phenomenal job,” said Burke. “The organization was just stood up officially about a year ago. ...We

have a war fighter exercise coming up in 2019 and it is the culminating event for all the training that Colonel Rueger has got everyone started with in helping to grow the organization. So, we have to work toward 2019 in a lot of skill sets to continue to grow the organization.”  
“I’m moving on to a different position with the 35th Infantry Division,” said Col. John Rueger, the outgoing commander. “I’m excited about that. I’m excited to go up there and continue my military career.”  
(Continued on Page 5)

Lower costs, faster shipments the goal of new system

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office  
“Energize.”

Anyone familiar with the Star Trek television or movie series knows that was the signal to activate the transporter, a device that could send material or people thousands of miles in a matter of seconds.  
However, until – and if – such a high-tech device is ever invented, whenever the Kansas National Guard needs to send supplies or equipment from one place to another, it has to rely on the tried and true method of putting the shipment on a Kansas National Guard truck and driving it from one city to another, which, in addition to time, requires manpower and fuel. Food and overnight lodging for the drivers must also be factored in. All of which cost money, in one way or another.  
Two years ago, Lt. Col. Roger Krull, Service and Supply chief for the Kansas Army National Guard, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kevin Harsch, Commercial Transportation supervisor, began thinking how they could reduce all those factors. Their discussions led them to consider an alternative solution: commercial carriers.

“We have commercial partners that run the roads – FedEx, UPS, CTI, Roadway and other partners—that do this for a living every day,” said Harsch, “and they can do it at a much more efficient rate than we can by putting employees on the road in a government vehicle, paying their wages, paying their fuel, paying the operating expense of the vehicle to get it from point A to point B.”  
Working the numbers, Krull and Harsch realized going commercial could save the Kansas National Guard and the taxpayers quite a bit of money. Krull cited an example involving the shipment of a 500-pound engine to Kansas City. “To send somebody from Topeka with our truck, a driver, just a small amount of fuel to go to and from, we estimated it was going to be \$300 to \$500,” said Krull. “We could do it for \$65 if we went through Roadway or any other commercial carrier. We said ‘Wait a minute. This has some pretty significant savings.’  
“Once we started doing the calculations, we realized how cheaply we can actually move supplies and goods across the state while allowing the customers at each end to continue to do their job.”  
Using an average number of 460 cargo pallets the Kansas Army National Guard moves each year, they calculated the cost at approximately \$75,000 a year for vehicle maintenance, Soldier pay, lodging, food and other expenses.  
“Using commercial carriers, and based on a high-cost average of \$65,” said Harsch, “the cost of sending 460 pallets is \$29,000.”

To facilitate the use of commercial carriers, Harsch, Krull and Sgt. Patrick Stowe, traffic management specialist, began compiling a list of data that would be needed – point of origin, destination, package size and weight, and other information. This information was turned over to the Data Processing branch of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office, which developed an online form that an armory supply sergeant can fill out and send with the click of a mouse.  
“It will be like your checkout when you order something online,” said Harsch. “You just complete the data, you hit the submit button, it comes up to the State Movement Control Center and we do the rest of the work for you.”  
“With the new system, they can create shipping labels and email them to the armory, which they can put on the package. We have the ability right here at the USPFO Transportation Section to create FedEx, to create UPS, (or other) shipping labels and we’ll send it right to you.”  
Harsch said the turnaround time on routine shipments, from the time the shipper submits his online request form to the time he receives his shipping label, is less than 10 minutes on average. Krull said the new system is expected to drastically cut the time a shipment is in transit, as well.

“With our area truck runs, it’s normally on about a three or four-week cycle, hitting various areas in the state,” said Krull. “With this, we will immediately be from one to five days for each transaction to take place and we’ll trim that to three.”  
“In addition to being able to reduce the amount of money that we are spending using the area truck, we can ship supplies and materials more quickly and more efficiently,” said Krull. “We’ve worked to remove unnecessary steps and requirements to create a more simplified and efficient process. By minimizing time spent traveling, we will improve efficiency and maximize our time accomplishing day-to-day missions.”  
Going commercial would also free up personnel to concentrate on their regular jobs.  
“We’re needing more and more people working on the floor of the warehouse to do other support missions,” said Krull. “A lot of these armories, where there are one or two people, three at most, you take one person to drive to Topeka, they can’t get anything accomplished back at their armory. That’s completely lost time and effort.”  
(Continued on Page 15)



Sgt. Patrick Stowe, traffic management specialist, processes a shipment request from his desk at the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in Topeka. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)



# The Kansas National Guard, one team with many strengths

By Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
The Adjutant General

Have you ever heard the phrases Army Strong; Fly Fight Win; Always Ready, Always There?

Slogans like these give military members a motto to follow while serving their state or nation. When I think of the Kansas National Guard, I see a diverse force of infantry, field artillery, pilots, tankers, security forces or military police, engineers, truck drivers and a host of other skills.

A good description would be “One Team, Many Strengths.”

One team was clearly seen during the joint operations for the recent ice storm that involved the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas National Guard, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Transportation and other partnering agencies. Every section used their strengths to keep the citizens of Kansas safe and informed before, during and after the storm. Approximately 200 Guardsmen were activated to provide stranded motorist assistance on Kansas roads and highway and generator support for electrical needs.

Our many strengths were demonstrated when approximately 150 Soldiers and Airmen, from different military disciplines, were requested to travel to Washington D.C. to support the 45th presidential inauguration. Regardless if they were Soldiers

*“When I think of the Kansas National Guard, I see a diverse force of infantry, field artillery, pilots, tankers, security forces or military police, engineers, truck drivers and a host of other skills. A good description would be ‘One Team, Many Strengths.’”*

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli  
The Adjutant General



or Airmen, they were all part of our team, the Kansas National Guard.

Over the next several months, units of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard will be preparing to deploy for overseas missions. Approximately 700 Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division, 635th Regional Support Group; 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery; and Company G, 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation will be supporting operations in southwest Asia. Airmen from the 184th Intelligence Wing and 190th Air Refueling Wing will also be deploying to support other ongoing operations. Even though our missions will be at different locations, we are still one team, the Kansas National Guard.

I recognize that deployments, activations and additional training puts a tremendous amount of stress on Guardsmen and our additional teammates; their families and employers. As Guardsmen, we cannot succeed without their support and we owe it to them

to keep them informed.

To the families on our team, we are here to support you. You serve a vital role in the success of the mission and I understand the importance of the role you play.

Several Family Readiness Groups have already been established for the units that are deploying. Some of these groups can be joined on Facebook to make it easier to stay connected. I encourage you to get involved in these groups to support or get support, if needed.

To the employers, I understand how difficult it is to maintain a business when Guardsmen are deployed. Soldiers and

Airmen, communicate with your employers! Updated information will make the transitions easier for them when you are called away to serve. Planning will not be in a vacuum. We will keep a constant flow of information for employers so they can make the plans or necessary changes.

We are doing this together. We are One Team, Many Strengths.

I am proud to be a part of the Kansas National Guard and I am proud to see how the Soldiers and Airmen continue to selflessly serve the state and nation. I know our team with their many strengths will keep adding to the success of the missions.

## Warrior to Warrior Your abilities enhance Kansas National Guard’s readiness

By Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown  
State Command Senior Enlisted Leader

The new year can present opportunities for change and, effective Jan. 1, 2017, for the first time in over 30 years, I will no longer be involved in working with law enforcement. While my position within the Kansas National Guard will not be changing, the status in which I serve will. By accepting a full time position as the Kansas command senior enlisted leader, I pledge to continue to serve our Soldiers and Airmen with loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal and administrative courage. I will represent and serve the enlisted men and women of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard and be their representative to the Kansas adjutant general and champion all matters regarding the professional development, discipline of the force, readiness, training, utilization, health, morale, and welfare of our warriors.

With the enlisted force having senior representation across the entire force, my expectations for what we can accomplish

during this next year are extremely optimistic. The joint force that is represented by the Army and Air has a multitude of abilities and experiences that we will use to strengthen our team and achieve the TAG’s priorities.

Each member of our organization has the ability to create positive impact. This is more likely to be produced when members feel they are positively contributing to the team versus acting alone. The results of one team acting towards a common goal will likely result in increased performance, confidence, accountability and ownership.

The possibility of state or federal activation is a realistic scenario that must drive every aspect of how we operate. Individual readiness will be a priority for all units and unit training plans will reflect those requirement. An effective training plan based on a unit’s needs and mission analysis will increase readiness, build camaraderie, and give our Soldiers and Airmen a sense of belonging.

As Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, we represent a demographic with unique abilities that enhance mission readiness. One of our greatest strengths lies in the variety of skillsets we bring to the fight through a combination of our military and civilian roles. Being mentally and physically prepared to deploy these skill sets when called upon, while supporting TAG initiatives, will remain our focus as we continue to strengthen our enlisted force.



Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown

## Murdock, Brown honorary captains at GCCC football game



Col. Roger Murdock (right), chief of joint staff, and Command Chief Master Sgt. James Brown (tossing coin), command senior enlisted leader, acted as ceremonial captains participating in the traditional coin toss in midfield of Garden City Community College's Broncbuster Stadium, Oct. 1. Kansas National Guard and the college are partners in a program called Task Force Broncbuster, focusing on opportunities for Soldiers to gain valuable civilian and military education in a traditional student role. The Broncbusters won the game against Butler Community College 43-0. (Photo provided)

“No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



## PLAINS GUARDIAN

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# Domestic Operations display capabilities for state leadership at 184th Intelligence Wing

By Senior Airman Lauren Penney  
184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs

On Oct. 18, 2016, the parking lots of the Roost Dining Facility and 184th Medical Group were filled with the vehicles and equipment that support the many missions of the 184th Intelligence Wing.

Leadership from the wing and Kansas National Guard state headquarters received briefings on each squadron’s budgets and the amount of funding needed to operate efficiently. The briefings were followed by a tour so leadership could see for themselves how each squadron’s equipment works and what they potentially needed.

Because the majority of the Kansas National Guard are Army Guard, the objective of the day was to educate state leadership on Air National Guard-specific domestic operations equipment and to demonstrate how the Airmen use their capabilities.

“This was an effort to brief and show all the air-specific capabilities and show how much funding Congress sets aside to equip the Air National Guard to help mitigate emergencies and disasters that affect the states and communities we belong to,” said Master Sgt. Ross Chappell, emergency management superintendent, 184th Civil Engineering Squadron.

For the most part, operations and funding seem to be sufficient with few problems.

“The main shortfall is transporting all of these domestic operations pieces to a response,” said Chappell. “The National Guard Bureau sends these fantastic pieces of equipment, but outside the Mobile Emergency Operations Center,

none of these pieces have come with a prime mover.” That’s where the joint operations comes in. The Army Guard has many more vehicles, which is written in as part of the state’s capability packages. “There may be times we Air Guardsmen will have to rely on our Army counterparts to move our pieces of equipment to wherever they’re needed,” said Chappell. About four months was spent planning for the briefing. “We had many meetings involving our emergency management personnel from the 184th and 190th Air Refueling Wing, as well our Mission Support chain of commands from both wings,” said Col. Chris Ioder, director of operations, Kansas Air National Guard.

“My goal was to bring visibility to our Kansas National Guard Domestic Operations capabilities, but more specifically, capabilities unique to the Kansas Air National Guard,” said Ioder. “I wanted our Kansas National Guard leadership, along with our KDEM (Kansas Division of Emergency Management) representatives, to see what the Kansas Air National Guard brings to the domestic operations fight.”

Kansas National Guard leadership is responsible for keeping Army and Air Force Guardsmen trained and ready to respond to the incidents and disasters that happen.

“My hope is that everyone will begin to have a greater appreciation for and focus on our Kansas National Guard domestic operations capabilities,” said Ioder. “That will mean better training and planning from our leadership going forward. Our Kansas Air National Guard capabilities and responsibilities need to be known not only by our Airmen, but also our local community officials.”



Tech. Sgt. Al Daniels, air transportation specialist, 184th Intelligence Wing, explains the function of communications equipment to Maj. Gen. Lee Tafari, the adjutant general, at McConnell Air Force Base, Oct. 18, 2016. (Photo by Senior Airman Lauren Penney, 184th IW Public Affairs)

## Kansas Guardsman participates in Strategic Broadening Seminar

Public Affairs Office

Maj. Rodney Seaba, Office of Personnel Management, Kansas Army National Guard, recently returned from a six-week Strategic Broadening Seminar conducted at the United Kingdom Defense Academy in Shrivenham, England.

The seminar is an Army Chief of Staff program designed to educate and enhance an appreciation for the complex contemporary security environments future senior leaders need to lead Army, Joint, Interagency and multinational task forces and teams.

Seaba and 28 other U.S. Army officers took part in the Intermediate Command and Staff Course – Land with their

British counterparts. Upon arrival at the Defense Academy, they participated in a four-day critical thinking seminar at Cranfield University aimed at establishing the baseline for success while participating in follow-on modules.

The course covered the nature of warfare, the current and emerging strategic environment, the contributions from the military to achieving the U.K.’s strategic goals while understanding their defense policy and the global effects on British defense. The course also analyzed strategy and policy, the fiscal context of British defense, and the capability strategy at the Ministry of Defense level. Academy lectures, coupled with student trips to many of the key locations of the Ministry of Defense, facilitated a rapid learning curve.

The experience of this course was more than just educational, it also aimed to provide each student with a greater understanding of British culture and history.

“The experience gained while in the United Kingdom allowed me to gain a much greater appreciation for the factors affecting security and defense in the current environment,” said Seaba.

In addition to the educational and cultural experiences made available to the U.S. students, the opportunity to develop lifelong relationships with British counterparts proved beneficial. During the six-week course, Seaba was part of a 12-student group with 11 British officers from all branches of the British Army. These relationships are lifelong and will serve to further strengthen the special relationship between the U.S. and British armies.

“The knowledge gained from this experience is buoyed by the realization that an understanding of world events allows me to better serve the Kansas Army National Guard,” said Seaba, “especially when understanding how events are measured through critical thinking and cognitive management.”

# Guards Soldiers showcase abilities, incentives at Kansas State Fair



Spc. Vanessa Lugo, a power generation equipment repairer with the 35th Infantry Division, explains the basic functions of the Mk 19 grenade launcher to 12-year-old Colton Miller at the Kansas Army National Guard exhibit at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, Kansas, Sept. 15, 2016. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Jacobs, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By Sgt. Brandon Jacobs  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Amid hundreds of booths, fried turkey legs and a giant cows made of butter at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson in September sat four vehicles of warfare surrounding a large tan shelter tent. As fair-goers examined the static displays, Soldiers of the Kansas Army National Guard were on hand to tell about their equipment, the Guard’s mission and the benefits it offers.

“We have a two-fold mission here,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reichert, a recruiter stationed in Hutchinson. “We are here to serve and interact with civilians of all ages, as well as show potential recruits what the Guard can do for them.

“People don’t know that the National Guard is the largest reserve component in the military,” said Reichert. “Being the largest means we have more jobs, more full-time positions, and more avenues for promotion. One of the key advantages is you don’t follow the National Guard, the Guard will follow you.”

Although Soldiers join the National Guard for varying reason, they tend to stay for one common purpose. They enjoy the benefit of getting to be at home and still serve their country honorably.

“I joined because my family has a history of service,” said Pfc. Taryn Vaughn, Humboldt, 35th Military Police Company. “The National Guard gives me the option to do my duty and still go home.”

Vaughn, who stands five feet tall, regularly shocks people when she tells them she is a military police officer.

“I surprise people all the time,” said Vaughn. “The Guard is very rewarding, very difficult, but very fun and challenging.”

“The Guard really is the best of both worlds,” said Staff Sgt. Hendrik Rijfogl, Colby, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. “I serve part time in the Guard and am able to maintain a civilian career.”

“It’s a team effort,” said Rijfogl. “With all the different [military occupation specialties] in the Guard, we can provide a wide variety of services to our state and country. If you want an education, the Guard can help pay; if you want to change your life the Guard can help.”

To find out more about the opportunities and benefits of the Kansas National Guard contact your nearest recruiter at [goo.gl/YLfkQU](http://goo.gl/YLfkQU) or call 1-800-Go-Guard.



Maj. Rodney Seaba, Kansas Army National Guard, (white shirt) participates in an exercise with British army officers at the United Kingdom Defense Academy in Shrivenham, England. (Photo provided)



# Soldiers, Airmen share common bond in Veterans Day bird hunt

**By Capt. Matt Lucht  
Public Affairs Office**

Most military members like to enjoy Veterans Day relaxing and taking advantage of the generous offerings of businesses and restaurants. Five Kansas National Guardsmen chose to relax outdoors for their 2016 Veterans Day hunting at Muddy Creek Game Birds near Meriden, Kansas, with

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Jay Selanders, Kansas assistant adjutant general-Air; and Col. Matt Oleen, Kansas Army National Guard deputy chief of staff.

“We were able to take out five Soldiers and Airmen from the Kansas National Guard and go out for some great upland hunting, some great camaraderie and wing

shooting,” said Tafanelli.

Shells were loaded and the dogs were sent out as the eight hunters split into two separate parties in hope of getting a few birds for their freezers. The hunting event was a prime way for leadership, Soldiers and Airmen to enjoy the hobby that they all have in common, hunting.

“We do a lot besides our Guard job and there is time for the adjutant general and everything else and there is another time where you can just relax and enjoy each other’s company, enjoy the outdoors in this case, which we never get enough of,” said Selanders. “So this is one of those opportunities. It was very informal, lots of fun and I think that everyone had a great time, relax a little bit and took a day off on Veterans Day.”

“Day to day, I just see the typical people that I work with,” said Tech. Sgt. Austin Bowman, engine mechanic, 190th Air Refueling Wing. “I don’t think that I have ever had any face to face time with those guys [leadership] and the others that work with them, so it was pretty nice to get out and talk with them.”

The Guardsmen were able to see the

leadership away from the office, uniforms and responsibilities. Some were surprised as the day went on.

“I didn’t know that the adjutant general was a hunter and to be a bird hunter like this,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Dix, noncommissioned officer in charge, Office of Personnel, Joint Force Headquarters.

“He had his dogs out there and the dogs were trained well. To be out there with him and see him working his dogs, he is just another person like us.

“I got such a kick, he didn’t have to shoot to enjoy. He was getting everyone else involved once his dogs were on point and encouraging them on like ‘You guys ready?’”

As the sun went down and several birds collected, all agreed that it was a great day of camaraderie and a great way to spend Veteran’s Day.

“This is great for me, to be able to go out with some of our Soldiers and Airmen,” said Tafanelli. “It was really a lot of fun to watch those guy have a good time and work behind the dogs. A great day to reflect on Veteran’s Day and spend it with our troops.”



The bird is up and a hunter takes aim during a Veterans Day hunt at Muddy Creek Game Birds Preserve, near Meriden. (Photo by Capt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

## 130th FAB change of command

**(Continued from Page 2)**

“It’s been a great opportunity with the 130th Field Artillery Brigade. I’ve learned a lot. It has been a tremendous experience and allowed me to grow as a leader and affect an organization from the ground up.”

Rueger credited the Soldiers under his command for his success.

“I greatly appreciate all of the hard work and effort that the Soldiers of this unit did over the last two years to stand up the organization and react to all of the change that we’ve had in the Kansas National Guard," said Rueger. "Change is constant in our organization. It takes Soldiers that can deal with change to be able to move the organization forward and they’ve done that. They have really supported me. They’ve done a lot of things that have allowed me to set a vision and they’ve executed on it.

“They have a great commander coming in -- Colonel Tom Burke," said Rueger. "He is the right man for the right job at the right time. He is going to take this organization to the next level. He has tremendous ability. He has a wide range of experiences that are going to really allow this organization to move forward and prepare for whatever comes down.”



Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, takes a downed pheasant from Bella, his German shorthair pointer, during a Veterans Day hunt Nov. 11. (Photo by Capt. Matt Lucht, Public Affairs Office)

# Divish receives command of 69th Troop Command

**By Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

In the middle of the hustle and bustle of drill, the 69th Troop Command took time out to welcome their new brigade commander, Col. Tony Divish, in a change of command ceremony at Nickell Armory in Topeka, Sept. 10, 2016.

Family, friends and peers gathered to witness the pageantry of the ceremony with pass and review of massed 69th TC units, including the polished sounds of the 35th Infantry Division Band.

Outgoing commander, Col. Thomas Burke, will continue his military career as commander of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade in Manhattan.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, commander of the Kansas Army National Guard-Land Component, presented the brigade colors to Divish, symbolizing his confidence in the commander’s ability to handle the responsibility of command and maintain or improve the unit.

“I am honored for the privilege to serve as the commander of the 69th Troop Command,” said Divish.

“This is not a job that is taken lightly. You have to have your wits about yourself; you definitely have to be a servant of the Soldiers, because there are so many of them looking to you for leadership, for guidance, for assistance and whatever those needs are in a Soldier’s life. I fully understand those responsibilities and accept them.”

“It’s been my privilege to serve with



Col. Tony Divish accepts the command flag of the 69th Troop Command from Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, assistant adjutant general - Army and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 10. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jessica Barnett, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

you over the past 12 months” said Burke.

“My departure is bittersweet. This command has been a great blessing for me. I have learned much about you... about the organization over the last year while providing an overarching leadership. I can honestly say the leaderships built have been the best part of command.”

“It’s an honor to be able to pass the flag

between two great leaders that have accomplished histories,” said Mohatt. “I know the future is going to continue in the same manner.”

69th Troop Command is major subordinate command of the Kansas Army National Guard.

Divish enlisted in the Kansas Army National Guard in May 1985 as a tank me-

chanic in Company A, 1st Battalion, 635th Armor. He received his commission from the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at Emporia State University in May 1989 as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

After earning his commission, he served in various positions in CompanyA, including platoon leader and executive officer. He has been assigned to many different positions at the company, battalion and brigade levels within the Kansas National Guard. Divish deployed to Iraq in 2008-2009 as battalion commander for the Special Troops Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade.

His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course, Combined Armed Services Staff School, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He works full time for the Kansas Army National Guard as the director of logistics.

Divish is a graduate of Emporia State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in Spanish. He earned a master’s degrees in business management from Webster University and a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Burke began his military career in 1981 as a combat medical specialist and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC program at Iowa State University in 1990.

Burke’s previous assignments include

**(Continued on Page 14)**



# Medical mission helps 184th Medical Group build bonds in Armenia

**By Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz**  
**184th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs**  
Thirty-five members of the 184th Intelligence Wing, primarily from the 184th Medical Group, supported a humanitarian civic outreach mission in Armenia in August 2016. The purpose of the two-week mission was to train U.S. and British forces in their medical specialty fields.

Airmen were divided between two government hospitals, Hrazdan Medical Center and Gavar Medical Center. Three soldiers from the 6th Battalion, British Regular Army were embedded into the 184th MDG component in Gavar. The Airmen and Soldiers worked in many sections of the hospital.

“This is the first time partnering with the Kansas Air National Guard and it’s been an absolute pleasure,” said Cpl. Andrew Fuller, combat medical technician class 1, 6th Battalion, British Regular Army. “We are happy to be here and be part of this experience.”

The project was accomplished, in part, through the National Guard Bureau State Partnership Program. The SPP has been building relationships between U.S. military members and 76 developing countries for more than 20 years. The program matches National Guard with armed forces or equivalent organizations of a partner country in a mutually beneficial relationship. Kansas has been partnered with Armenia since 2003.



**Staff Sgt. Ryan Ghaffari, flight operational medical technician, 184th Medical Group, checks a patient’s eyes in Gavar, Armenia. Ghaffari was one of 35 members from the 184th Intelligence Wing who supported the humanitarian civic outreach mission. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th IW Public Affairs)**



**Capt. Andrew Jamerson, laboratory officer in charge, 184th Medical Group, takes blood samples as part of an outreach mission in Hrazdan, Armenia. The purpose of the two-week mission was to train U.S. and British forces in their medical specialty fields. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th IW Public Affairs)**

The mission was the first time in the past 10 years that a medical unit has visited Armenia. Dr. Nune Grigoryan, optometrist and chief doctor, Hrazdan Medical Center, worked alongside Lt. Col. Darin Nitschke, optometrist, 184th MDG. “The first thing that I learned from Doctor Nitschke was to smile. It was just not a job, it was a pleasure to work with him,” said Grigoryan. “Though [the Armenian hospital staff] works with different instruments than in America, I learned a lot from him and I hope that we continue to share our experiences.”

Classes taught by the 184th MDG for the Armenian medical staff members included cardiopulmonary resuscitation, advanced cardiac life support, basic life support, infection control procedures, and stroke therapy and assessment. Airman 1st Class Cora Bloom, aerospace medical technician, 184th MDG, presented a stroke assessment class to Hrazdan emergency room nurses and staff members at the Hrazdan Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities.

“I taught a National Institutes of Health scale that determines what body part and how severe a stroke has affected a patient,” said Bloom. “Using this scale will give the emergency room nurses a quantitative value to their stroke assessment. They can do all of it in an organized manner and the same way



**Airman 1st Class Cora Bloom (right), aerospace medical technician, 184th Medical Group, demonstrates how to conduct a stroke assessment for emergency room nurses and staff members at the Hrazdan Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities in Hrazdan, Armenia. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Ruiz, 184th IW Public Affairs)**

for every patient.” The American and British personnel also reached out to the Gavar Orphanage, which cares for approximately 63 children. The children were given toothpaste, toothbrushes, instructions on body hygiene and toys. The Airmen and British personnel visited the orphanage off-duty to play games and interact with the children.

“Smiles can reach a million people,” said Staff Sgt. Ryan Ghaffari, flight operational medical technician, 184th MDG. “It was a great time interacting with the children and teaching body hygiene.”

Additional donations to the community included clothes from the 184th MDG members, 1,000 toothbrushes from King’s Storehouse Food Bank, Texas, and 300 prescription eyeglasses from the Lion’s Club International, Texas.

## Visit reaffirms success of Kansas, Armenian partnership

**By Capt. Matt Lucht**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
6,414 miles separates Topeka, Kansas, from Yerevan, Armenia. But when Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of Kansas, and several other Kansas National Guard leaders were invited to the Republic of Armenia Sept. 18-23, 2016, to help that nation celebrate 25 years of independence, it was a small distance to travel.

Kansas and Armenia have been partners in the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program since 2003 and, over the years, the two nations have engaged in numerous exchange visits.

“It’s really impressive to see not only how far along the Armenians have come,” said Tafanelli, “but really how far along we have come in terms of our partnership and really what we are able to gain from these training events as well.”

Tafanelli had the opportunity to sit on the reviewing stand during the independence parade and saw a visual difference in the seven years he has been adjutant general.

“To see how proud the Armenian people were, to see how well prepared and disciplined the Armenian troops were,” said Tafanelli, “it was really a pleasure to be here as well as an honor to attend.”

However, the trip wasn’t just for the celebration. Tafanelli visited with several Kansas Guardsmen who were in Armenia conducting medical and emergency response classes for their Armenian counterparts and heard ideas on how Armenia and Kansas can continue to partner on these and other types of exchanges.

“To watch our [73rd] Civil Support Team members work alongside counterparts that work in the Ministry of Emer-

The generous hospitality of the Armenians was expressed in a variety of ways, such as inviting the U.S. and British personnel to join in their coffee breaks. The Total Force components at the Gavar hospital received a visit from Richard Mills, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, and Judith Farnworth, British Ambassador. “This program not only gives the hospitals the help of some talented medical experts to provide continued quality care, it also serves as a valuable training and experience for our U.S. and U.K. medical staff,” said Mills. “The U.S. volunteers are gaining experience with conditions and ailments that may not be common in the U.S., and working with Armenian doctors and nurses, they gain a better understanding of working across cultures, a valuable skill for a unit that is ready to deploy worldwide on short notice.”

gency Situations and really see as they get that hands-on-experience of working with some of similar equipment that we have and what they have was really fun to watch,” said Tafanelli. Maj. Dennis Sewell M.D., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation, first visited Armenia in 2007 to help the Armenian military design a combat medic program. With the program only weeks away from launch, Sewell and a medical team were on hand for any last minute questions. “With the continued partnership of folks that come after me, and the ones that have been here before, we are going to make this a success and there are going to be a lot of lives saved on the battlefield because of it,” said Sewell. For Airmen Garrett Browne, 190th Medical Group, the trip was a double-first: his first time in Armenia, as well as his first time outside the United States. “I think that, if anyone that hasn’t been outside of the U.S. they should jump on the opportunity if it arises,” said Browne. “I think that it is a great place to be and for me, personally, being that it was my first time outside the United States, it was a great experience.” “We have some outstanding young men and women who serve in our formation in the Kansas National Guard,” said Tafanelli, “and whenever we can project that professionalism, that dedication to mission, that dedication to service abroad and really see the overall impact that it has had on a country and really more important the people and the friendships that has been developed over the years. It really is rewarding as the adjutant general.”



# Soldiers motivated and ready at annual fitness event

By 1st Sgt. Brent Anders  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Although there was a dense fog at the beginning of the Adjutant General’s Army Physical Fitness Test competition, hosted in Salina Sept. 18, 2016, by the 235th Regiment, Guardsmen from across the state of Kansas were excited, motivated and ready to compete, with a clear vision of what they wanted to accomplish.

“My team and I came here to compete, because we wanted to show what [Headquarters and Headquarters Company] was made of,” said Spc. Derick Cruz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. “I think it’s a great event. It’s an opportunity for other units to get together and show their showmanship of athleticism. You get to meet new people and do great things.”

Enlisted Soldiers and officers competed against themselves and one another. Soldiers competed individually and as teams in all three of the APFT events: two-minute pushups, two-minute sit-ups, and two-mile run. Competitors’ scores were calculated using the standard age/gender score sheets, but could score on the extended scoring system if they reached a minimum of 100 points on each event.

The Soldier with the highest score in the pushup event was Sgt. 1st Class Chase Taylor with 101 pushups. Cruz won the individual highest sit-up score with 102 sit-ups. The individual with the highest score on the two-mile run was Capt. Jarrod Fox with a time of 10:49. Each of these Soldiers received an engraved plaque.

The overall highest score by an individual Soldier in all three events was Col. Robert Thompson with a total score of 344.

Thompson received a specially engraved eagle trophy for his performance.

Team placement awards were also presented. The third-place team, with a total score of 1,102, was the 997th Brigade Support Battalion, consisting of 2nd Lt. Rachel Nelson, Staff Sgt. Cody Breon, Spc. Devon Willard and Pfc. Justin Boswell. The second-place team, with a total score of 1,137, was the 235th Modular Training Battalion, consisting of Lt. Col. Michelle Hannah, 1st Sgt. John Duerr, Sgt. 1st Class William Cookson and Staff Sgt. James Hill. The first-place team, with a total high score of 1,309 points, was the Kansas National Guard Medical Detachment, consisting of Col. Robert Thompson, Capt. Samuel Ornelas, Capt. Jarrod Fox and 1st Lt. Scott Gregory.

Each team received an engraved plaque with medals for each team member. The first-place team will also have their name engraved on the main TAG APFT trophy kept at the 235th Regional Training Institute.

Brig. Gen. Anthony Mohatt, assistant adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Army National Guard, competed in the event to set an example for others.

“I feel it gives a transparency to myself and the standards I hold myself to,” said Mohatt. “I would charge every commander, leader and Soldier to do the same, to hold themselves to that kind of standard.

“When you put the uniform on, I think you kind of have a competitive approach towards your life,” he said. “So when you do a challenge, you are laying a gauntlet out there for individuals to test themselves against their peers and against the entire force. That’s a good thing. What it really is, is sending a message to the organization that physical fitness is important.”



Competitors in the annual Adjutant General’s Army Physical Fitness Test event start the two-mile run, the final event of the competition. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Brent Anders, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

# Year-end wrap-up, looking ahead

By Chief Warrant Officer 5  
Michael Smith  
Command Chief Warrant Officer

As we head into a new year, I would like to thank you all for your continued service and the sacrifices that you and your families make. Less than one percent of Americans today choose to serve this country and much of the population does not know the sacrifices you make, but without all of you, we couldn’t enjoy the freedom that we do every day.



Chief Warrant Officer 5  
Michael Smith

I want to briefly point out some of the achievements made within the KSARNG Warrant Officer Cohort this past year:

- During our Aviation Warrant Officer Pre-flight boards, five Soldiers were selected to attend flight school. Currently, Warrant Officer Aviation is over 100 percent, yet we need aviators in the pipeline to become warrant officers because it takes approximately two years of training to become a warrant officer aviator.
  - Chief Warrant Officer 5 Peter Panos, the National Guard Bureau command chief warrant officer, was the guest speaker at the Kansas National Guard Association Warrant Officer luncheon, and updated us with progress made concerning the Warrant Officer Promotion System and other warrant officer initiatives.
  - Continued to refine the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council and ensure that topics brought up for discussion are given their due attention.
  - Increasing warrant officer readiness. We currently have more warrant officers in the state than ever before. We are also at our highest number for readiness ever, but we still have a way to go. Current warrant officer strength puts us at 84 percent. We still have approximately 25 vacancies to fill. On average, 10-15 warrant officers leave the Kansas Army National Guard annually, so I ask for your assistance by providing names of quality Soldiers that you feel would make quality warrant officers. I ask that any noncommissioned officers who would like to become a warrant officer to contact me.
- In each issue of the Plains Guardian, I try to give helpful advice to junior warrant officers, so the advice for this issue is:
- Now is a good time to update your biographies, Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management Sys-

*We currently have more warrant officers in the state than ever before. We are also at our highest number for readiness ever, but we still have a way to go... so I ask for your assistance by providing names of quality Soldiers that you feel would make quality warrant officers.*

tem and Officer Evaluation Report support form. You have to be proactive in maintaining your record, because if you don’t, no one else will. By updating all your records at one time you can better track and update the schools and training you have received during the past year. Promotion boards are looking over your records and if you don’t update your records or OERs, you can be overlooked because you don’t meet promotion requirements.

I also want to remind everyone that each year the National Guard Association of Kansas elects a Warrant Officer of the Year. Candidates for this award will be recommended according to the following:

1. JFHQ: Recommendations may be forwarded through command channels to the appropriate commander.
2. Army National Guard: Recommendations will be forwarded through the unit commander to the appropriate major subordinate command.

JFHQ and each major subordinate command will initiate the recommendation process in sufficient time to ensure that the chair of the awards committee, National Guard Association of Kansas, receives the nomination at least 10 days prior to the association’s annual conference. The objective for the Warrant Officer of the Year is to provide recognition for outstanding leadership, loyalty, initiative, and public service displayed by a warrant officer.

The NGAKS conference will be April 28-29 in Wichita, so there is still time to submit warrant officer names to the committee. Two out of the past three years our warrant officers were also selected as National Warrant Officer of the year.

Finally, if you know of any warrant officer news, such as promotions, graduations, retirements, or changes that affect warrant officers and you would like to see them in the Plains Guardian, please send them to me and I add them. (Phone 785-274-1903; michael.w.smith293.mil@mail.mil)

# Girl Scouts learn about careers in aviation from those who live it

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

More than 200 Girl Scouts packed the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka for the “Girls in Aviation” event Oct. 1, 2016, to meet multiple generations of female military aviators and discuss careers and opportunities for girls in aviation.

The scouts, from Topeka and the surrounding region, met current and former female pilots and crew members with the Kansas National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment and the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

“This is something that they would have probably not seen had we not brought them here,” said Tammy McBride, co-leader of Girl Scout Troop 866, Olathe. “We wanted them to talk to women who actually work on planes and fly planes.

“We don’t want them to be stuck in the thought that they have to be teachers, or veterinarians, or stay-home moms. They can do anything they want.”

The Girl Scouts viewed the static aircraft at the museum and had face-time with multiple generations of military



Girl Scouts and sponsors gather near a KC-135 at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard for Girls in Aviation Day Oct 1, 2016. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

aviators on hand to talk about their experiences and the opportunities that are available.

“It has turned out to be a tremendous experience for me,” said Master Sgt. Summer Walters, unit deployment manager, 190th Air Refueling Wing, who also served as a KC-135 crew chief for 18 years. “I wanted to make sure that I could hold my own out there. I got in there, got my hands dirty. I liked the challenge of it.

“Working with the guys was great. They’ve treated me really well. They’re kind of like the brothers I never had.”

Retired Col. Pam Luthie-Rodriguez was there to offer her wisdom as the first woman pilot in the Kansas Army National Guard.

“It’s an awesome opportunity,” said Luthie-Rodriguez. “We’re hoping that some young girls will look at us and say ‘That’s what I want to do,’ and they’ll think it’s possible. It’s available to them.”

Luthie-Rodriguez said opportunities for women were not as robust during her career and that there was a stigma about women in aviation and in the military as a whole.

(Continued on Page 13)





# Winter weather is here. Make sure you're prepared for it

By Steve Larson  
Public Affairs Office

It's a message that most people have heard before, but it's one that bears repeating: The time to prepare for severe winter weather is now.

"As most Kansans know, winter weather in the state can be extremely variable from one year to another, even from one day to another," said Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

"We've already had one round of snowfall accompanied by bitter temperatures. This may signal the start of a bad winter or it could turn out the rest of the season is mild. The best course of action is to be prepared."

Morgan advised all Kansans to check their home and vehicle emergency kits and replenish any outdated supplies. KDEM recommends a minimum three-day supply of water (one gallon per day per person), nonperishable high-energy foods, extra blankets, flashlights and extra batteries, a safe alternate heat source, extra medications and other essentials.

Pet owners are reminded to see to the needs of their pets, particularly if kept outdoors. When making your home emergency kit, make one for your pets, as well, with the same three-day supply of food and water, medications and other essentials. Ensure that your pet has a warm, dry shelter with straw or other bedding material, and access to food and water that is not covered by snow or ice. If you do not have a heated water dish, make sure to replace the water at least daily when temperatures drop below freezing. During severe conditions, it is advised to bring the pet indoors to a garage, mud room or other warm area.

Road travel is discouraged during extreme storm situations; however, if you must travel in those conditions the Kansas Highway Patrol encourages taking extra precautions to keep yourself and your family safe.

Keep at least a half a tank of gas in your car at all times in case you get stranded or stuck in traffic. Arrange your travel plans so you can leave well ahead of bad weather and keep an emergency kit in your car."

- Recommended items to include in your vehicle:
- Shovel, windshield scraper and small broom
  - Flashlight
  - Battery powered radio
  - Extra batteries
  - Water
  - Snack food
  - Matches

- Extra hats, socks and mittens
  - First aid kit with pocket knife
  - Necessary medications
  - Blanket(s)
  - Tow chain or rope
  - Road salt and sand
  - Booster cables
  - Emergency flares
  - Fluorescent distress flag
- Information on winter driving tips is available from the Kansas Highway Patrol at [goo.gl/pzzGHu](http://goo.gl/pzzGHu). You can also follow the Kansas Highway Patrol on Facebook and Twitter at [www.kansashighwaypatrol.org](http://www.kansashighwaypatrol.org).
- If you must travel when winter road conditions are deteriorating, then plan ahead to get the latest road informa-

tion from the Kansas Department of Transportation by calling 5-1-1 or visiting the Kandrive website at [kan-drive.org](http://kan-drive.org).

To find information on road conditions when not in the state, call 1-866-511-5368.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages Kansans to plan ahead and dress appropriately for bitterly cold weather and to know the warning signs of hypothermia. Information about staying safe in winter weather is available at [goo.gl/XgE06N](http://goo.gl/XgE06N)

For a complete list of items for a home or car emergency kit, go to [www.ksready.gov](http://www.ksready.gov). Additional information on preparing for winter weather is available from FEMA at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), the American Red Cross at [www.red-cross.org](http://www.red-cross.org), or your county emergency management office.



## BE PREPARED

GATHER AND STORE YOUR MEDICATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, PRESCRIPTIONS, AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

- COPIES OF YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS
- GLASSES/CONTACTS
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
- PERSONAL HYGIENE AND SANITATION

If you must drive during or after winter weather check out these tips:

- Follow directions from local officials
- Slow down
- Never pass a snow plow on the right

**"Don't crowd the plow!"**

[www.ready.gov/winter](http://www.ready.gov/winter)



## 35th Infantry Division conducts back-to-back command post exercises

By Spc. Stefanie Fulcher  
35th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards continued preparations for their upcoming overseas deployment during two separate five-day command post exercises held at Camp Clark, Missouri.

"One of the commander's training objectives is to centralize operations and to be expeditionary," said Col. Jeff Van, 35th Infantry Division deputy commanding general, operations.

It was for that reason the 35th Division left the comfort of Leavenworth and deployed its mobile command post to Camp Clark to better simulate a real deployment where both states could enhance the overall collective readiness of the unit and support systems during a shared mission.

"We decided to change what's been normal in the past of doing the collective training at Fort Leavenworth," said Van, "and, instead, deploy our headquarters to a centralized site that would be easily accessible for both states to enhance collective training and better support."

The exercises, held in December and January, are a continuation of training efforts built from lessons learned at last summer's warfighter exercise in Leavenworth. Where most large-scale warfighter exercise include multiple elements from various active-duty, National Guard and Reserve units across the country, these command post exercises consisted only of 35th Infantry Division Soldiers.

"The CPXs serve to establish a baseline of division readiness that allow us to

*"Repetition is key, And these efforts will be seen when we arrive overseas and are ready to tackle a 24-hour cycle of supporting those brigades that we're commanding."*

**Col. Jeff Van**  
deputy commanding general  
35th Infantry Division

tailor training for future command post exercises," said Col. Timothy Bush, 35th Infantry Division chief of staff. "It's really an incredible opportunity that allows us to go through multiple repetitions of a specific battle drill and better familiarize all staff personnel with their individual functions."

The first command post exercises, conducted in December, gave the Soldiers of the 35th the opportunity to fine tune those individualized practices while simultaneously creating a more cohesive team.

"Information in this environment does not just flow vertically up and down the chain-of-command," said Van. "It has to flow laterally to each section that might benefit from that information. If you don't exercise this, it won't just come overnight."

Taking what was learned from the experiences of the first command post exercise, 35th Division leadership had a better idea of areas needing focus as they moved into the second exercise in January.

"We took the smaller pieces that needed work and went through a crawl-walk-run process," said Van. "This not only allows us to better ourselves through individual functions, but be able to re-evaluate our-



Maj. Gen. Victor J. Braden (left), 35th Infantry Division commanding general, gives an operational overview to Maj. Gen. Robert P. White, 1st Armored Division commanding general, during Command Post Exercise 2 at Camp Clark, Missouri, Jan. 9. Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guards are continuing their preparations for an upcoming overseas deployment. (Photo Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hanson, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs)

selves and improve our overall process."

Leadership within the 35th has spearheaded this challenge by incorporating an aggressive and compressive training plan that includes extended drill periods, language courses and increased communication within the organization itself.

The continuity in training and increased

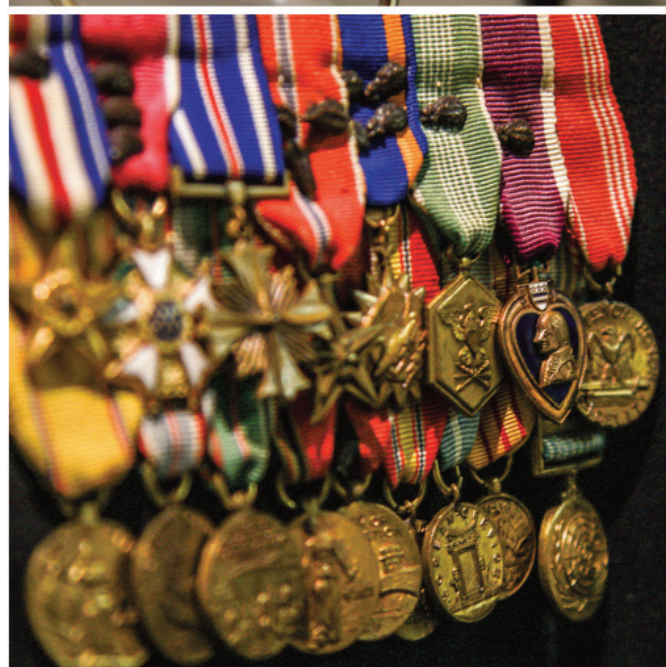
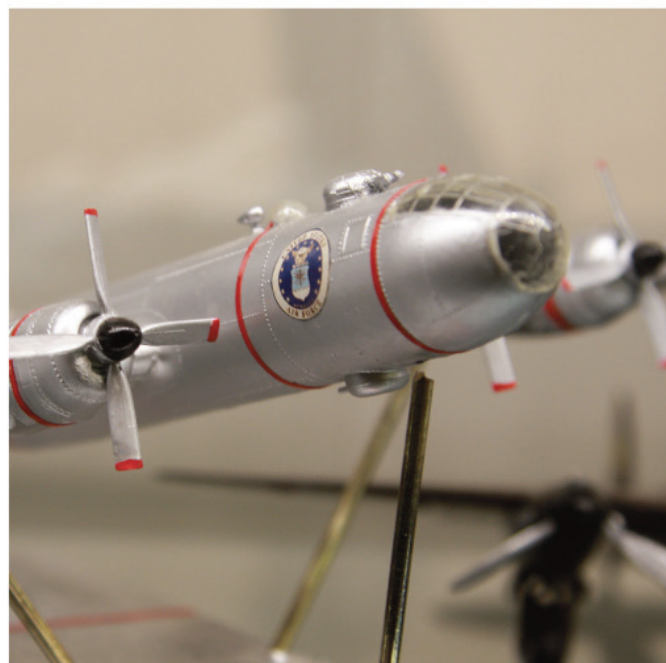
frequency in practice have been staples in the division's success, allowing for accelerated learning.

"Repetition is key," said Van. "And these efforts will be seen when we arrive overseas and are ready to tackle a 24-hour cycle of supporting those brigades that we're commanding."



125 SE Airport Dr.  
Topeka, KS, 66619  
kansanguardmuseum.com

# Take a closer look inside your *Museum of the* Kansas National Guard



## *Preserving and presenting the militia heritage of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard*

*Help us celebrate the Museum of the Kansas National Guard's 20th Anniversary in February.*

The Museum of the Kansas National Guard has much to offer Guardsmen and their families, Guard units, schools, community organizations and the public in general.

Since 2010 it has also been the home of the 35th Infantry Division Museum.

### **What the Museum Offers**

The museum offers a quality visitor experience with 36 pieces of equipment outside and more than 125 exhibits inside. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and admission is always free.

It offers both a research library and a reading library. The research library contains historical information from all wars in which Kansas Guardsmen have been involved. It contains photo albums, document files, unit histories, original documents from World War II and a variety of unit booklets.

The reading library contains hundreds of military history books. Files on individual soldiers are not included in the collection, but some Soldier records from both world wars are accessible on request.

The museum has a large multimedia conference room, which seats 100 plus. This room

is available for all types of Guard meetings, family activities, Boy and Girl Scout activities, 4-H activities, organizational meetings and special events. The museum has hosted three weddings, three funerals, Scout campouts, Girl Scout days, STARBASE, promotion ceremonies, and countless changes of command, birthday, anniversary, promotion and holiday parties, family reunions, luncheons, breakfasts and other events.

Patriot Field is located on the museum grounds and it can be used for parades, ceremonies, campouts, picnics and other outdoor activities.

### **Inside The Museum**

The 35th Division Museum area features exhibits on the 35th Division's formation and combat in World War I, its heroic involvement in the European Theater battles of World War II, and its most recent deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, and in the Global War on Terrorism.

Both wings of the Kansas Air National Guard, the 190th Air Refueling Wing and the 184th Intelligence Wing, are featured in the Air National Guard gallery in the center of the museum.

Featured are its various missions over the years, and the Kansas Air Guard's involvement

in World War II, the Pueblo Crisis, the Cold War, and the Global War on Terrorism.

The museum includes the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame gallery and the 35th Division Hall of Fame.

Notable exhibits in the museum include the "M\*A\*S\*H" Swamp tent from the television series, an original oil painting of Adolph Hitler taken from a German Officer Club in 1945 by a 35th Division Soldier, the Virtual Parachute Descent Trainer formerly used by Kansas Air Guard units and now available for use by museum visitors, an extensive weapons gallery, and a "Snowgoose" unmanned aerial vehicle.

Also featured are exhibits on "Sports Figures in the Kansas National Guard," "Women in the Kansas National Guard," "The Kansas National Guard at Haskell," "Partnership for Peace," "IEDs and Land Mines," "Rations in the Military," "State Emergency Duty," and other special topics.

Multiple case exhibits feature the Civil War, Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism in Bosnia, Kosovo, Africa, and other places.



# Ceremony inducts two into Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame

**Photos and story by Capt. Margaret Ziffer  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame hosted its 2016 induction ceremonies Nov. 6 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.

During this annual event, retired Maj. Gen. Russell C. Axtell and retired Sgt. Maj. Lynn Edward Holt were welcomed as the organization’s newest members.

“Today we recognize two of our own who have made immeasurable contributions in shaping the Kansas Army and Air National Guard that we know today,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard.

The Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame was established by the National Guard Association of Kansas to recognize individuals who have served in the Kansas National Guard or its predecessor, the Kansas State Militia, and who have made a significant contribution to the National Guard achievements, tradition, or history, according to the Museum of the National Guard’s website. Inductees must be nominated by their peers and selected by a committee.

The achievements of this year’s inductees were numerous.

“Any Airman who has served with Axtell would consider him an unusually fine and capable leader, having guided the 184th Tactical Fighter Group and, later, the entire Kansas Air National Guard through some very difficult times,” said Tafanelli. “He is an Airman’s Airman, a general with intelligence, a sense of humility and perspective that few others have.”

Tafanelli remarked that Holt is one of few individuals who left such an indelible mark on the enlisted force in the Kansas Army National Guard.

“For over three decades, he has faithfully served at the detachment, company, battalion, brigade and state level, earning a well-deserved reputation for selflessly ensuring that his Soldiers were trained, motivated and ready to execute whatever missions came their way,” said Tafanelli. “He has a tireless focus on a simple but powerful philosophy: work to make the unit better every day.”

The two inductees were not able to reach these achievements alone, however, and Tafanelli pointed out that their families also made numerous sacrifices over the years, with “lost opportunities and missed events,” which enabled Axtell and Holt to serve the Kansas National Guard.

The inductees themselves also credited

the love, sacrifice and support of their spouses, their families and their friends.

“There’s a lot of people responsible for me being here – my family is the biggest one,” said Axtell.

“There are so many I would like to thank for this honor,” said Holt. “In my opinion, there is no higher honor that can be given to a retired member of the Kansas National Guard.”

Axtell also credited the entire National Guard community for successes and how it has been able to grow and evolve over the years. “Throughout my career, I worked with great individuals who were dedicated to their work and to each other. That’s really the strength of what we do, the strength of the National Guard: the sense of community that exists in this organization,” said Axtell.

“It is easy for all of us to get distracted by the day-to-day grind and the busy schedules and forget the deeper reason why we serve,” said Tafanelli. “But on days like today, we pause to honor two leading examples of dedication and service. We also take a moment to remind ourselves of a deeper

truth – that America still needs her protectors and warriors, perhaps now more than ever.

“Thank you for allowing us to be reminded of what real integrity, character, and selfless service looks like,” said Tafanelli. “Thank you for spending decades of your lives dedicated to things greater than yourselves.”

More information about how to nominate a Kansas National Guard retiree for induction into the Hall of Fame can be found at <http://www.kansasguardmuseum.com/>.

**Retired Maj. Gen. Russell C. Axtell**

Axtell joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 1968 while attending the Wichita State University’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program, and received a direct commission in May 1969. He received pilot training at Reese Air Force Base from July 1969 until July 1970. Afterward he attended F-100 Combat Crew Training School with the 162nd Tactical Fighter Group, Arizona Air National Guard, Tucson, Arizona, and was in the first F-105 Combat Crew Training School class conducted by the Kansas Air National Guard, 184th Tactical Fighter Group, McConnell Air Force Group, Wichita, Kansas, receiving honors and graduating as the outstanding graduate in 1972.

Axtell became a full-time technician



**Retired Sgt. Maj. Lynn Holt accepts an award from Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general, during the 2016 Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Topeka Nov. 6.**

with the KSANG as an F-105 instructor pilot with the 184th in 1973. During this time he served as an academic, simulator and flight instructor. He moved through a succession of positions, from life support officer to squadron operations officer to chief of academics. In 1979, he transitioned to the F-4 Fighter by attending upgrade training with the 426th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He also resumed his college education, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering in 1977.

Other assignments include deputy commander of resources, and the Air National Guard advisor to the Air Force’s Tactical Air Command for plans and operations at Tactical Air Command Headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia. He was responsible for advising the staff on policies, plans, and programs. He also coordinated issues between TAC-gained ANG units, state adjutants general, National Guard Bureau, ANG support center, and TAC. Additionally, he coordinated war plans, exercises and deployments.

In 1990, Axtell returned to Kansas as the commander of the Smoky Hill Weapons Range, 184th Tactical Fighter Wing, Salina. During this time, he resumed his flying career in F-16 fighter aircraft as an instructor pilot. While at the 184th, he led the unit to the best-ever unit effectiveness inspection with the ultimate reward as the Outstanding Unit Award, the first ever awarded to a gunnery range.

After a short stint as the director of Fighter Forces for the ANG, Andrews AFB, Washington D.C., he was selected as commander of the 184th Fighter Group, which converted to a heavy bomber unit, the first ANG unit in the nation to receive the B-1B Bomber.

In 1997, Axtell was appointed as the chief of staff for the KSANG and he was appointed the assistant adjutant general-air for Kansas in 2000. In 2003 he was selected as the ANG assistant to the commander, Air Forces Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colorado.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and numerous other Air Force and Kansas National Guard Awards.

**Retired Sgt. Maj. Lynn E. Holt**

Holt built his distinguished Kansas Army National Guard career developing strength, retaining Soldiers, and insuring Soldiers re-

ceived proper training. He served from the detachment through state level. He is known for his ability to recognize Soldier needs at all levels. The same care he felt for Soldiers carried over into his community activities. Holt’s passion for people and their needs exemplifies his true character. He devoted his entire adult life to the betterment of our nation, our state and the Kansas National Guard.

Born July 27, 1951 in Topeka, Holt graduated from Topeka High School in 1969. Soon after graduating, he enlisted in the KSARNG as a cook with Company A, 169th Support Battalion as a cook. He completed his basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in 1971.

Shortly after returning from basic training, he became the unit supply specialist until May 1973. He assumed the duties of unit supply sergeant and was employed as the unit administrative

supply technician, where he was promoted to sergeant. He was promoted in May 1974 to staff sergeant in the same assignment. In July 1977, he was assigned as the personnel supervisor, record section, 69th Infantry Brigade, Adjutant General Section and promoted to sergeant first class in April 1978 and master sergeant in 1982.

Holt transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Support, 35th Infantry Division at Fort Leavenworth in October 1985, where he served as the replacement detachment supervisor. In August 1992, he transferred to headquarters of the Kansas State Area Command in Topeka and was promoted to sergeant major. After graduation from the United States Sergeants Major Academy in 1995, he was assigned as the personnel sergeant major in the Directorate of Personnel office. In 2001 he was assigned as the HQ STARC battalion sergeant major until he retired in December 2003.

Holt served his community as president of the Tecumseh North Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization; coach, fundraiser and building committee of Shawnee County Amateur Baseball Association; coach and manager of Dornwood Girls Softball Association; former tornado spotter with the Kaw Valley Amateur Radio Club; assistant chapter dad, DeMolays; THS reunion committee Class of 69 from 1989 to present; Arab Shrine Past Potentate – 2005, Arab Shrine clown and past president of Arab Shrine Past Potentates Association 2011 and secretary treasurer since 2012.



**Retired Maj. Gen. Russell C. Axtell speaks during the 2016 Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.**



# Speaking from experience

## Failure to prepare can stunt career growth

By Sgt. Zach Sheely  
Public Affairs Office

*“The purpose of this performance counseling is to inform you that you did not meet Army physical fitness standards by failing a record Army Physical Fitness Test as a graduation requirement for the Warrior Leader Course and inform you that your failure to pass the APFT retest will result in your dismissal from the Warrior Leader Course.”*



This was written on a Developmental Counseling Form and was, along with a DA Form 1059 marked “unsatisfactory,” given to me before I left Camp Ashland, Nebraska – a failure of the then-named Warrior Leader Course.

I had failed the initial APFT at the Warrior Leader Course by three pushups, and then failed the APFT retest seven days later. I was unceremoniously removed from class later that day and told by my small group leader that I needed to pack my bags and report to the operations building immediately. I was being dismissed early as a non-graduate of the course.

I was one of several Soldiers who were involuntarily removed from the course for failing to meet Army standards in either the APFT or body composition. That was a long and lonely drive back to Kansas.

It was a genuinely humiliating experience that I wouldn’t wish upon anyone, and it could have been so easily avoided with preparation and the right mentality.

I made the mistake early in my National Guard career of disregarding physical training and the importance of body composition to my overall readiness. I coasted by for years on my annual APFT, preparing very little and completing the bare minimum number of repetitions in both pushups and sit-ups needed to pass – repetitions that may have not been up to standard.

I would crash diet the week before a height/weight measurement, eating only salads and baked chicken to ensure that I squeaked by on my tape measurement, then returning to bad eating habits immediately afterward.

It was a lifestyle. I didn’t hold myself to a high enough standard, and I paid the price.

If any of this sounds familiar to you, I implore you to take your career in the National Guard more seriously, and that starts with physical readiness. Being physically ready is at the very core of military service, regardless of your branch, status or military occupation specialty.

I showed up at WLC, the first level of the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System, unprepared, both mentally and physically.

Upon arrival, Soldiers are measured for height and weight and tested in the APFT. I assumed that the APFT administered there would be just like every other APFT I had taken, and the NCO grading my performance in pushups and sit-ups would score leniently and count any and all pushup and sit-up repetitions. Much to my dismay, they did not.

The cadre at NCOES will tell you – as they reminded me – that they are there to apply and uphold the standard. You can’t fake it on an APFT at NCOES. You must arrive prepared.

School slots are valuable to every Soldier. When a Soldier fails out, as I did, it is a waste of a slot that another Soldier may have been waiting for and needing to advance their career.

If you do fail out of an NCOES or MOS-producing school because of APFT and/or height/weight failure, rest assured that you will spend the next year or more proving to your command team that you deserve to go back. At my first sergeant’s behest, I took a dozen or more APFTs to show that I was ready.

I was determined never to fail another APFT again and, more importantly, to live a healthier lifestyle. I sought out experts in fitness and nutrition and asked for their help, including my first sergeant. Soldiers do not want to see Soldiers fail.

I participated in the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, which was invaluable to my military career and my personal life.

I’m happy to say that I returned to Camp Ashland, Nebraska, in late 2016, and graduated the Basic Leader Course. I’m now ready to take the next step, but the reality is that I stunted my career growth by a year or more.

Nothing will hinder your career or slow your upward progression quite like failing to meet the APFT and/or height/weight failure. Take it from someone who has experienced failure firsthand. Take the steps needed to fix yourself. It is possible. It starts with you.

# Kansas Army National Guard welcomes first woman into Chaplain Corps



Retired Col. David Jenkins, former Kansas National Guard state chaplain, pins the silver bar of the rank of first lieutenant on 1st Lt. Jamilah Moss’ uniform during a commission and promotion ceremony Nov. 23, 2016, at the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church in Lawrence, Kansas. (Photo by Sgt. Zach Sheely, Public Affairs Office)

By Sgt. Zach Sheely,  
Public Affairs Office

The Kansas Army National Guard welcomed a new chaplain who is unlike any other into the Chaplain Corps during a commissioning ceremony at the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church Nov. 22, 2016.

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jamilah Moss is the first female chaplain in the Kansas Army National Guard.

"I'm grateful and honored," said Moss, "and I know that it comes with a lot of responsibility, but it's a celebratory experience in many ways."

Moss, who served in the U.S. Army Reserve in the early 1990s, said that the journey to the chaplaincy has been years in the making.

"I really felt a call on my life for a long time," said Moss, "the call to serve God, but I didn't know what that looked like. Now it has developed into being a full-time pastor and being a part of the Army National Guard. I knew long ago... that I wanted to help but I didn't know how and at the time, I wasn't a Christian."

ing that there's need for chaplains led to me coming on board with the Kansas National Guard."

Moss was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant as family, members of her church and fellow KSARNG Soldiers congratulated her.

"Jami's been a blessing to the Kansas Army National Guard," said Chaplain (Col.) Peter Jaramillo, state chaplain. "She's accepted the call. What she brings is unsurpassable in many ways. She brings her own unique calling, she's endowed with a rich cultural background and she has great pastoral skills."

In April 2016, the Kansas Army National Guard opened all military occupations to women, including infantry and field artillery, a fact that makes Moss' commissioning even more opportune, according to Chaplain (Maj.) John Potter, deputy command chaplain.

"There's an incredible importance in having female chaplains," said Potter. "As we continue to increase the numbers of females in combat arms, it's huge that we have a female presence in all branches. So for this to happen in 2016 is historic, it's unique. In a way, it's kind of sad it hasn't happened until now."

"But it's not like she's just going to be a chaplain for females, that's not the case at all. She's going to be there for everyone. It's a huge honor to bring her in. She comes from such an incredible background and culture that she's going to bring to the Chaplain Corps of the Kansas Guard."

Moss serves as an elder in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference with the United Methodist Church and pastor of the Lawrence Indian United Methodist Church. Moss said her service to her church and to the Soldiers in the Kansas Army Guard are one in the same.

"My desire is to serve the people of God in any capacity I can," said Moss. "So, being prior service and understand-

# Shriners donate circus tickets



In a show of support for the Soldiers and Airmen of the Kansas National Guard and their families, the Topeka Arab Shrine donated approximately 2,500 tickets to the 2017 Shrine Circus to the Kansas National Guard during a brief presentation Jan. 4, 2017, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard in Topeka. Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general of Kansas, accepted the tickets on behalf of the Kansas National Guard.

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<https://g1arng.army.pentagon.mil>



# Kansas Guard assists with Topeka city JROTC drill competition

By Capt. Rory Mele, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

“That was on point,” was whispered by a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp cadet after watching a drill and ceremony presentation by cadets from a competing school during the Annual All City Drill, Fitness and Marksmanship Competition at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Kansas, Dec. 3, 2016.

Cadets were not the only ones critiquing the precision and discipline of the exercises being conducted. Judges were organized and provided by the Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion and consisted of seven Kansas National Guard Soldiers, three Kansas State University ROTC cadets from the Persian Guard, and two Marines; who scored each competing team by a list of specific criteria.

All five JROTCs in the Topeka area – Marine, Army, Navy and Air Force cadets – participated in this competition, according to retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ron Daniels, Washburn Rural High School’s senior aerospace instructor. They competed in marksmanship with air rifles earlier in the week, and in the President’s Physical Fitness Test, doing sit-ups, pull-ups, a 30-yard shuttle run and a mile run prior to their Precision Drill competition. The drill competition included unarmed and armed regulation, armed and unarmed exhibition and color guard.

Kansas National Guard Soldiers who are expert in the various event disciplines, have judged these events in the past

“Without the Kansas National Guard, we could not pull off an event such as this,” said Daniels. “They do a great job of getting in and helping us with the cadets.”

Daniels said that the events these cadets do require a great deal of military discipline focus and individuals from the National Guard provide not only judges for those events, but they help through com-

municating with those students, he said, and it’s important for the students to see another face in uniform from time to time.

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Jackson, the recruiting and retention noncommissioned for Holton and Topeka, expressed that, as citizen Soldiers, Guardsmen are often recognized for their response to disasters, but are also recognized for the work and service that they do in the communities where they live.

“You cannot measure the trust built by getting out and serving the community,” said Jackson. “The moms and dads can see

that we are not just here to recruit their kids, but we are actually a part of the community here to assist their children.”

“As a parent, there is a sense of security knowing that there is a plan,” said Sarah Good, a mother with one cadet in high school and one cadet at Kansas State University on scholarship to join the Air Force. “With school, and beyond school, there is a plan for what my son is going to do with the rest of his life and I don’t worry about him being successful because he has learned all of the skills needed to do that by

“Without the Kansas National Guard, we could not pull off an event such as this.”

Retired Lt. Col. Ron Daniels, senior aerospace instructor, Washburn Rural High School

being a part of this program.”

Good said that the JROTC program helped her kids develop a maturity level that almost cannot be taught outside of the JROTC and ROTC structure.

The students are in it for other reasons. “We want to be different,” said Pvt. Miguel Monteclaro, Topeka High School JROTC company commander, who recently joined the National Guard. “We want to show the world what young men and women of our generation are still capable of.”

“First and foremost, with JROTC, our guiding role is to create good citizens for America,” said Daniels. “We want to instill good citizenship, making every cadet a good citizen of character, no matter their branch and, I think that I can speak for all of the other JROTC instructors, that without the National Guard, we couldn’t do a lot of the things we do and we are very grateful for them.”

“It’s great to see citizen-Soldiers support the high schools,” said Jackson. “These are our future leaders right here. So the more they can see positive role models and individuals is an amazing thing and it is great to get the support of my fellow recruiters and others within the Army.”

Along with providing the judges, the Kansas Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion covered the expenses of 16 plaques to be handed out for each of the competitions.



Cadet Jared Koopman, battalion commander of Topeka High School’s JROTC, discusses left and right limits with Sgt. 1st Class Veronica Bartley, Kansas Army National Guard, who served as a judge at the Annual All City Drill, Fitness and Marksmanship Competition at Washburn Rural High School, Dec. 3. (Photo by Capt. Rory Mele, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS

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*From Guard to Guardian*  
Airman honored for lifesaving actions

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Waller  
22nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs  
May 23, 2015, is a day Staff Sgt. Clinton Brown will never forget.

It was a little after three a.m. and Brown had been driving for almost eight hours and could see the lights of his hotel in the distance just outside Marshall, Texas. At that moment, a car blew past him at more than 80 miles an hour, running red lights before it T-boned into another car. “I pulled in as fast as I could, slammed the car in park and jumped out barking out orders to my wife,” recalled Brown, 161st Intelligence Squadron intelligence analyst. “I needed to help these people.”

Assessing the situation, Brown realized the driver in the T-boned car was pinned in and needed the most help. “I reached in there and tried to feel his pulse,” said Brown. “We tried to provide aid to the driver, but he was gone. His fiancée was in the car with him.”

Brown’s wife, Stefanie, stayed with the woman while Brown moved on to check the other vehicle.

Suddenly, it caught fire. Brown and another bystander tried to kick the windows in, but had no luck. Then, the driver of a passing semi-truck approached them with a hammer. “I ran over, grabbed the hammer and broke the back passenger window out,” he said. “There were two kids in the back seat who were fully awake and conscious. The mom was still in the driver seat. She was going crazy.

“She was turned around, holding onto both kids and wasn’t letting go. She was going to let them burn in the car.” The truck driver returned with a fire extinguisher and attempted to get the flames under control with little success. Soon the front of the car was engulfed in flames. Brown, a father of three, said he remembered thinking to himself that he wasn’t

going to let anyone burn to death in a car. “I reached in and grabbed the mom’s wrist and squeezed as hard as I could and ripped her daughter out of the back seat,” Brown said. “Her son was behind the driver seat, so I just grabbed him and pulled him out of the vehicle.” After he pulled the children out, the police arrived and were able to get the woman out of the burning car. For his actions, his first sergeant, Master Sgt. Jerry Gardiner, 161st IS, nominated him for the United Service Organization National Guardsmen of the Year. “Clint Brown is the type of person that is very compassionate with a tremendous capacity to do what is right for himself, his family, and the community,” said Gardiner. “[He is] a quiet, humble and inspiring individual who puts service to his country and family before himself.”

Ultimately, Brown was selected as the recipient of the award and was honored during the 2016 USO Gala in Washington, D.C., Oct. 20.

“I was shocked,” Brown said about the selection. “I am literally the small-town boy who grew up helping people. I’ve always tried to help. It’s who I am; I will sacrifice my life if I need to.” Recently, the Brown family learned what happened to the people involved in the accident. “The guy that was killed was 19-years-old,” Brown said. “The other driver was charged with first-degree murder and a couple counts of child endangerment. She was found not guilty by reason of insanity.”

Brown doesn’t know what happened to the two children he rescued, but to his children, he will always be their hero. “My youngest daughter will tell you I’m her hero,” he smiled. “It makes me unbelievably proud and brings tears to my eyes to hear it.”



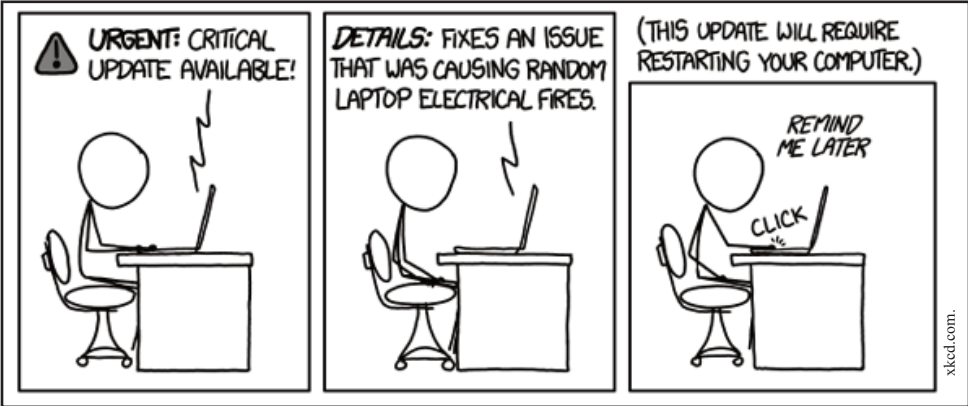
Staff Sgt. Clinton Brown was named United Service Organization National Guardsmen of the Year for his lifesaving actions in May 2015. (Photo provided)

Girls Scouts, women in aviation

(Continued from Page 7)  
“There was definitely a stigma,” said Luthie-Rodriguez. “No one ever told me this, but I know there were certain guys that wouldn’t fly with me.” According to 1st Lt. Courtney Brungardt, aeromedical evacuations officer, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, that stigma is a thing of the past. “My unit has been nothing but professional,” said Brungardt. “They don’t expect anything more or less from me than they would my male counterparts. I’m grateful that we... can do not only this job, but all the other jobs that have recently opened. “Things have definitely changed, and I think it’s for the better. We can do our jobs just as good as a male can and I think it’s

good that these changes are happening.” The Girls in Aviation event coincided with the 2016 Fly Kansas stop at the Combat Air Museum in Topeka. The girls were able to observe airplanes from across Kansas land and take off, visit with the pilots and get an up-close look at the various aircraft that included a tour of the fuselage of a KC-135 with the 190th ARW. “I learned a lot about what planes look like on the inside and what women can do in the military,” said Madalyn Hesterlee, a Girl Scout with Troop 1494, Kansas City Kansas. “It was really cool (to meet women in aviation) because most of the time men were allowed to do stuff, but knowing that women can do stuff too, it was really cool and a good experience.”

Never ignore patch messages



By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Sackrider  
Cybersecurity Officer  
Imagine hiring a construction company to build a house. Your house has plumbing, doors, windows, furnace, and all the other items one needs to live comfortably.

A month after you move in, you realize if the thermostat is set on 72, the air conditioner and the furnace both come on. You notify the construction company and they replace your thermostat.

Then word gets out that the windows could be opened from the outside with a specially-bent butter knife. So the window manufacturer sends out new locks to everyone with that brand of window. This process of mediating faulty construction or new exploits happens daily with your digital systems. We know them as patches, those annoying messages that pop up and tell us we need to download, install, and (shudder) reboot our computers. We don’t have time for that (postpone, postpone, ignore).

The issue is that our systems need to be patched to operate smoothly and safely. Patches not only cover operating systems, but applications, drivers, and security measures to keep our systems and information (and pictures of our Aunt Ruth) safe. It is true that a patch can make a system worse. Much testing goes on before a patch is rolled out, but with the myriad of configurations of hardware and software, there are bound to be some hiccups. Let this not deter you in keeping your systems up-to-date. Another issue is how do we trust a patch? Many times a website will notify you a program (usually Flash or Java) is out of date, and you should immediately download a patch that they soooooo graciously offer. In reality, the patch is a Trojan horse that will spy on you, steal your data, or post those

pictures of your aunt online. Software and patches are supposed to be digitally signed. That is, your computer can look at its fingerprint and look it up on a database and be sure it is from the proper company and has not been modified. You can trust your computer to know the proper patches during system notifications; do not trust websites. If you do feel you need a patch, go to the vendor’s site directly, not from a link on a webpage or email.

Have your computers set to automatically update your operating system and main programs. Luckily, Windows now remembers where it left off when it rebooted your computer. Many times you won’t even know your system restarted. Of course, there exists that small chance of data loss, save often. Can your system be completely patched? No. There are ways to sneak into your system that the programmers aren’t aware of. These are called Zero Days, so named because there are no days between the time of the patch (which doesn’t exist) and the time to be able to exploit a system. Some zero days are out there for a year before software companies realize it. Unfortunately, the bad guys knew about it all this time, using it and not letting it slip that it’s there. In that case, we use other means to protect our systems -- defensive software, firewalls and, above all, vigilance. As we learned with the massive internet outage this year, devices within the Internet of Things (IoT) need to be patched as well. Printers, phones, security systems, watches, and televisions and other items all need to be patched. It’s a hassle remembering to keep these systems up to date, so again it’s best to allow them to update themselves, and tolerate a slight inconvenience now rather than trying to get your identity (or family pictures) back later.

Workshop focuses on military education assistance programs

Last year, during National Education Week, the Kansas National Guard hosted its 7th annual workshop for 27 school certifying officials, registrars and financial aid counselors from 12 Kansas institutions of higher learning. The workshop is designed for employees that manage the accounts of students who use the GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance and State Tuition Assistance programs. The workshop was hosted by Maj. Chuck Leivan, the Kansas National Guard Education Services officer, and his staff. The section coordinated with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, the Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State University and the Office of Officer Strength Management providing a wide-range of topics relevant to the audience. “One of the most gratifying things about this workshop is to actually see these various agencies learn from each other. It’s like magic when the lights go on and someone has that ‘A-ha!’ moment,” Leivan said. Dominic Barnes, Military Student Services coordinator for K-State Global Campus at Fort Riley, briefed the requirements of a Letter of Instruction schools for GoArmyEd. There are six Letter of Instruction schools in Kansas: Barton County Community College, Fort Hays State University, Grantham, Kansas City Commu-

nity College, Kansas State University and Southwestern College. LOI schools have a high volume of Soldier enrollments and the school’s registration and withdrawal processes are integrated with GoArmyEd. Each term, these schools upload a portion of their course offerings into GoArmyEd and Soldiers are able to search the system for their classes. Non Letter of Instruction schools have fewer Soldier enrollments and the school’s systems are not as integrated with GoArmyEd. However, all schools use the electronic invoicing, grading, and graduation reporting features within GoArmyEd. “I have attended this workshop for the past three years and I always learn something new here” said Summer Bond, financial aid coordinator at Kansas City Community College. The presentation by Maj. Feng Zhang, Specialty Branch officer strength manager, included information on the incentives and opportunities for doctors, physician assistants, dentists, nurses and chaplains have if they commission in the National Guard. “We had a lot of positive feedback and I feel confident that this event reinforces our efforts to develop relationships with individuals at all levels with our external stakeholders fostering stronger partnerships in the future,” said Leivan.







# Kansas National Guardsmen support annual Freedom Fest event

By Capt. Rory Mele  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Banners displaying photographs of veterans from all military branches lined the street that led to the south end of Emporia. There, veterans and civilians, young and old, made final preparations to compete in the Spur Ride at the 14th annual Freedom Fest held at All Veterans Memorial Park Nov. 6, 2016.

“Freedom Fest is a celebration of veterans in the city of Emporia, which is the founding city of Veterans Day,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Harmon, coordinator of Freedom Fest. “The Spur Ride is our starting event that attracts around 250 participants and roughly 200 spectators from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma.”

The Spur Ride is a competitive community gathering event that is part of the All Veterans Tribute week began in 2003 by volunteers to honor all veterans and their families, according to the Emporia Main Street volunteers’ website.

Freedom Fest included individual events such as the 5K Freedom Run/Walk and a 16-mile or 40-mile Freedom Ride, where participants bike through the Flint Hills at their own pace. It also included a timed competition called the Dirty Kanza/635th Armor Regiment Spur Ride. Participants in the Spur Ride had to complete the 5K run,

the 40-mile Gravel Grinder bike ride and the Spur Readiness Test, consisting of five military-style obstacles, within 3 hours and 40 minutes.

The event attracted men and women of all ages, including participants like Shawn O’Mara, who competed in the event last year and wanted to race again.

“I fully embrace this celebration for our veterans,” said O’Mara, a participant on the Dirty Kanza Promotions team, “and I’m proud of our city for embracing Veterans Day and all vets.”

The race this year also welcomed a first of its kind team that included Capt. Timothy Hornik from the Blind Veterans Association and his guide, Lt. Col. Matthew Battiston, both retired cavalry Soldiers who met as students at the University of Kansas Veterans Association and decided to prepare together for this event.

“I had done the Spur Ride last year and I completed the Dirty Kanza 200-mile bike race earlier in the year,” said Battiston. “Tim had heard about me riding through the KU Veterans Associations and had asked me to start riding with him in the mornings.”

Hornik, who lost his sight in a service-connected injury after taking direct fire from a sniper, completed each event by holding on to Battiston’s arm or shoulder and listening to verbal instructions. The



Retired Lt. Col. Matthew Battiston and retired Capt. Timothy Hornik, Blind Veterans Association, compete as a team in the Spur Ride at the 14th annual Freedom Fest in Emporia. (Photo by Capt. Rory Mele, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

most challenging part was the 40-mile Gravel Grinder on a tandem bicycle through the gravel roads of the Flint Hills.

Hornik was already an avid runner, but they both started biking in the mornings before school. They started biking 15 miles and increased their distance over the next four to five months, eventually leading to their involvement in the Spur Ride.

Hornik and Battiston said that they enjoyed the event, the association with other participants, and the support they received throughout the competition. Their goal is to get a few more teams from the Blind Veterans Association into the Spur Ride next year.

The success of the event can be credited to the diversity of its participants and to the many volunteer organizations, sponsors and individuals who worked together to make the event run as safely and efficiently as possible.

The proceeds from major sponsors help run the event, said Ben Schubert, coordinator of the 5K Run/Walk event. Volunteer groups from the local university provided community service, troops from the Boy Scouts of America helped with crowd control and safety on the run, and local organizations offered food and drinks to participants and volunteers throughout the event.

Company D, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment has been providing support for this event for several

years, according to Lt. Col. Jason Nelson, battalion commander.

“We have a more robust role this year by providing 15-20 personnel to support running the Spur Ride event and assisting with aid stations on the run and the bike trails,” said Nelson, who also presented participants with their awards at a final ceremony.

Participants were called to formation where first time racers received a shiny new spur and those competing for a second time received a leather spur strap to attach to their first-year prize. Along with these awards, participants were encouraged to come again next year and to challenge their friends.

“We have a lot of dreams and plans for this event,” said Harmon. “Currently, we are looking to expand the Spur Ride portion of this event which will give participants a taste of what it’s like to go through an actual Spur Challenge with a cavalry or armor unit by hosting, here in Emporia, a true Spur Challenge that anyone in the military across the nation can participate in.”

Harmon explained that a Spur Challenge for a Soldier or trooper is very extensive, lasting more than five days. Participants get very little sleep and must rely on each other to get through the event, which includes a physical fitness test, range qualifications, a ruck march, multiple go/no go stations on warrior tasks, and the chance to demonstrate their leadership skills.



Runners take off on the 5K Run/Walk at the 14th annual Freedom Fest in Emporia. (Photo by Capt. Rory Mele, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Lower costs, faster shipments

(Continued from Page 2)

Krull said a faster shipment turnaround time will also free up warehouse space and improve accountability.

“If you, as a customer, have to hold on to something for three to four weeks in your

supply room and take up critical space, that can be rather painful and create an issue of loss of accountability,” said Krull.

Part of the improved accountability and time savings also comes from facilitating direct armory-to-armory shipments in-

stead of transferring equipment to the warehouse first.

“That’s how it used to be,” said Stowe. “Things would come in to the warehouse, requiring extra accountability, and then the warehouse would take the necessary steps to ship it out. Now, Soldiers and employees will be able to request and coordinate shipments between any of our armories and other facilities throughout the state.”

Harsch said the new system will not entirely supplant the old method of moving equipment and supplies.

“The customer will send the shipping requirements to the State Movement Control Center,” explained Harsch. “The Directorate of Logistics staff will first see if they can support it with military assets. If there’s a unit out there that needs some training and already has training slated, we’re not going to bypass the State Movement Control Center. If they can support it – they’ve already dedicated the time, the fuel and the Soldiers to the mission – we’re going to allow them to do that before we push it off to a commercial partner.”

If the decision is made to send the shipment by commercial carrier, the selection of which carrier to use will be handled by the Cargo Movement Operating System.

“Once we input all the data into it, we hit ‘Send request,’” said Harsch. “The request

goes out to all the commercial carriers. It rates that shipment. Once it goes out, it looks at all the carrier information and puts them in sequential order from the cheapest to the most expensive.

“We’re required by regulation to start at the cheapest carrier and call down the list until we find a carrier that will take it on cost comparison. We’re mandated by Defense Travel regulations to start at the top and work our way down to pick the next carrier. We can’t just pick the hundredth carrier because he’s our buddy.”

After some trial runs, the new system officially rolled out Dec. 1 of last year. Even so, Krull said, the system is a work in progress.

“We’re going to evaluate some things throughout the next year or more and there probably will be some tweaks to the web page or some other things that we discover along the way,” said Krull. “This is a foundation and an evolution of where things can go.”

Krull said he did not know of any other state using such a system.

“This may very well turn out to be a good model, especially on the Army Guard side of the house, throughout the nation someday,” said Krull.

“This is just one piece of projects that logistics has in the works,” said Harsch. “Stay tuned.”



The new shipping process will allow the Kansas Army National Guard to ship any item -- from a single sheet of paper to a piece of equipment weighing hundreds of pounds -- faster and cheaper. (Photo by Steve Larson, Public Affairs Office)





Although not a Kansas Army National Guardsman, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Bufford, was named the top Recruiter and Retention producer for the Kansas National Guard and Army Reserve in 2016. Buford is part of the Recruiting and Retention Office office at Fort Riley (Photo provided)

“We are on mission to put Soldiers in the Guard or Reserves coming off of active duty,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Bufford, 1st Division, Headquarters Battery. “So, based on my efforts for fiscal year 2016, I was the top producer of people in the Guard or Reserve.”

Col. Matt Oleen, deputy chief of staff, Kansas Army National Guard, presented Bufford with the Recruiting and Retention Producer of the year award for his efforts.

Over the past year, the Kansas Army National Guard transferred in 150 active-duty Soldiers from across the nation. Bufford and the recruiting and retention team at Fort Riley were responsible for a majority of those.

“Sergeant Bufford was the recipient of the award,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Luck, interstate transfer coordinator, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, “but he made it clear that it was the team that helped the contracting process; it really was a team effort. They [Fort Riley team] did 77 of the 150 total just from Fort Riley. He [Bufford] did 40 of those 77.”

“Our team is very strong and we all back each other,” said Bufford. “So when the award was given to me, I took it for the team. I really feel good about taking care of the state that I am in.”

Two to three thousand active-duty Soldier from Fort Riley have to meet with Bufford’s office as their service commitment is coming due. If the Soldier chooses to continue their service, they have two options -- the National Guard or the Reserves.

The state of Kansas offers incentives for joining the Kansas National Guard that many other states don’t.

“Kansas has one of the best stabilization policies,” said Bufford. “For four years, that Soldier is not deployable. So if you get those infantry Soldiers that are coming off of active duty that have a three or four year

service obligation remaining, it just makes sense for those Soldiers to stay in Kansas for the non-deployable eligibility. That was a good sale for me.

“Also, Kansas offers state tuition assistance for college. There aren’t a lot of states

that offer that, where a Soldier can take advantage of state tuition assistance to any private college in the state of Kansas.”

The benefits aren’t just one-sided. The Kansas National Guard also gets quality Soldiers to fill vacant positions.

“Cost and time,” said Luck. “The Guard doesn’t have to pay an applicant to go to basic training or back to training. If we get a Soldier from active duty, the day after his expiration term of service, we have a basic-trained and job-qualified Soldier.”

Bufford and the team are preparing for next fiscal year with the goal of taking home another award from the Kansas Army National Guard.

“We do have a higher goal than 77 from last year,” said Bufford. “We have a different mindset on how we are going to handle our units so I am sure that Fort Riley will come out number one again for state of Kansas and we are trying to outdo what we did last year.”

**“Kansas offers state tuition assistance for college. There aren’t a lot of states that offer that.”**

**Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Bufford**

## Civil Air Patrol Cadets take part in Veterans Day activities

Civil Air Patrol cadets from Kansas City Composite Squadron and Heartland Cadet Squadron came together to serve the Shawnee community during local Veterans Day events.

Kansas City Composite Squadron carried the colors for the city of Shawnee Kansas Veterans Day Celebration at the Shawnee Civic Centre. This is the fifth year that the Civil Air Patrol has played an active role in the event.

“I’m here because my dad is a veteran,” said Cadet 2nd Lt. Nathan Bailey. “This is to honor him”

Cadets from both squadrons also as-

sisted with passing out programs and opening doors.

Cadets from Heartland Squadron presented the colors for a Veterans Day Celebration at Gardner/Edgerton High School. They also participated in a Wreaths Across America donation event at Bass Pro Shops in Olathe.

“Laying a wreath on those who have fallen warms my heart,” said Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Serena Armenta. “It’s an honor because it’s one of the little things we have the privilege of doing for those men and women who gave up so much for us to be where we are today.”

## Annual Engineer Regimental ball celebrates camaraderie, history

By Capt. Margaret Ziffer  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 891st Engineer Battalion held its annual Engineer Regimental Ball Sept. 17, 2016, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Lt. Col. Kenneth Weishaar, battalion, commander, opened the evening by reviewing the year’s accomplishments. Highlights included several teams from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company completing the Bataan Memorial Death March; integrating 24 Armenian peace-keeping soldiers into their annual training; the Forward Support Company completing over 1,700 miles of driver’s training; the 226th Engineer Company’s continuation of their total Army partnership with Fort Riley; the 224th Engineer Company’s clearing and grubbing of 93 acres of training sites and six miles of ATV trails; and the 35th Military Police Company’s support of a Wolf Creek training exercise.

“Time limits my ability to tell you everything we accomplished this last year,” said Weishaar. “However, we did accomplish a lot. I wanted to let you know that your taxpayer dollars were hard at work.

“We are prepared not only to fight and win our nation’s wars, but we are also here to serve the homeland and support our friends and neighbors.”

Weishaar also thanked the families and friends of the 891st Engineer Battalion.

“Most of the time when we have these events, the commander or senior officer thanks the families for their sacrifice,” said Weishaar. “I want you to understand that that’s not a cliché, that’s not something that just goes in the script. An M1 tank is just as important to accomplishing the mission as family support. So, don’t ever take your support of our Soldiers doing their jobs lightly, because I can tell you that the senior leaders and I certainly don’t.”

Before the traditional punch ceremony, Maj. Justin Nusz, battalion administrative officer, recounted the legacy of the battalion.

“The Soldiers of the 891st have traveled to Alaska, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador and Armenia to move the earth and to make life better for the people of these communities,” said Nusz. “We have travelled to Germany to support the active Army. We have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to conduct combat missions. We have responded to natural disasters throughout the state of Kansas.

“During World War I, the Soldiers of Fort Scott saw battle at Argonne, Alsace and Lorraine. During World War II, the Soldiers in the battalion saw battle in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, Alsace and central Europe.”

“The mission of the Engineer Corps is as varied as the contents of this punch,” said Nusz. “Topographic engineering, combat engineering, facilities engineering and civil works, mobility, counter mobility, survivability and the underlining requirement to get the job done and get it done right -- this is the Army Corps of Engineers.”

Three Soldiers of the battalion, Lt. Col. Eric Blankenship, Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Mosbrucker and Staff Sgt. Melvin Eubanks, became the newest recipients of the Bronze de Fleury Medal, which is awarded to individuals who have rendered significant service or support to an element of the Engineer Regiment.

The spirit of the Engineer Corps was evident throughout the event.

“It’s the history and the camaraderie,” said Nusz. “It’s especially nice to see the retirees come back for it. We try to get away from doing it on a drill weekend so that everyone can relax and have some fun.

“Engineers now, as always, clear the way,” he said. “From the establishment of the corps in the eighteenth century to the exploration of the universe well into the twenty-first, you will see the tangible evidence of the engineers and forever hear the engineer motto ringing in your ears: Essayons (Let us try)!”

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